## **Houston Chronicle**

## La Porte's Lodka Scores High at Police K-9 Competition

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LPPD's K-9 "Lodka"

A dog in La Porte Police's young K-9 program placed ninth at this year's National Narcotic Detector Dog Association competition in West Columbia, Texas. Lodka, and partner Officer Jesse Arenivas, form one of two K-9 teams the department currently uses in drug enforcement. They competed against 150 other teams.

In the competition, "The K-9 teams will search for various forms of narcotic-related contraband in multiple locations, such as vehicles, packages, warehouse settings, ventilation ducts, wall enclosures, and many other areas," says LPPD spokesperson Sgt. John Krueger.

Krueger says the dogs stay in their handlers' homes and "require a large amount of their off-duty attention." The officers get one full day a week solely dedicated to training. He sees the competition results as a sign that LPPD's K-9 efforts not only pay off, but also exceed state and national standards for training and skills. "In just two years, our K-9 teams have been involved in several hundred arrests, and a few hundred-thousand dollars' worth of drug seizures," he adds.